

INFLATABLE BALLOON CATHETER WITH PURGE MECHANISM AND METHOD

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An improved balloon catheter which includes a purge mechanism for purging air from the catheter prior to use. The purge mechanism is sized to allow air to pass through, but
5 highly restricts the flow of liquids. Air remaining in the catheter after purging is allowed to diffuse through the balloon prior to use. The mechanism is especially useful with low-pressure, gas-permeable, compliant balloons.